

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
Voice (608) 266-8005
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE DAVID G. DEININGER
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the December 18, 2012 Board Meeting

TO: Members, Government Accountability Board

FROM: Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board

Prepared and Presented by:
Sarah Whitt, SVRS Functional Lead
Ross Hein, Elections Supervisor

SUBJECT: Final Report of the SAVE Fact-Finding Team:
Recommendations for the Use of the SAVE Program in Wisconsin

Background

On December 11, 2012, Board staff completed its *Final Report of the SAVE Fact-Finding Team: Recommendations for Use of the SAVE Program in Wisconsin*. The research described in the report was requested by Elections Division Administrator Nathaniel E. Robinson based on staff's monitoring of efforts in Florida to use the federal SAVE database to remove the voter records of alleged non-citizens from Florida's voter registration list.

Subsequently, Director and General Counsel Kevin J. Kennedy received a request from a member of the Legislature to compare data from the SAVE Program with voter records in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) in order to "promote greater election integrity." The final report was provided to Board Members on December 12, 2012 in advance of its December 18, 2012 meeting. The Executive summary of that report is attached to this memorandum.

The SAVE Fact-Finding Team has thoroughly researched the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program maintained by the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This Report provides the results of this research, as well as recommendations for how the SAVE Program could be used in Wisconsin for the purpose of voter registration list maintenance. Costs are also provided to help anticipate the financial impact of such use.

Findings and Cost

The SAVE Fact-Finding Team has determined that the SAVE Program could be used in Wisconsin as a list maintenance function to assist in the determination of citizenship for certain

voters. SAVE cannot be used en masse to verify the citizenship of all voters on the statewide voter registration list. To implement the use of the SAVE Program, legislative authorization and a hearing process must be established to satisfy USDHS requirements for access to the SAVE Program. In addition, state resources would need to be appropriated for implementation and administration of this new list maintenance process. Total costs for the use of SAVE, including start-up and the first 5 years of operation are estimated to be \$1.19 million. The ultimate decision on whether and how Wisconsin would use the SAVE Program is a policy determination to be made by the Wisconsin Legislature

Recommended Motion: The Board accepts the staff's *Final Report of the SAVE Fact-Finding Team: Recommendations for Use of the SAVE Program in Wisconsin*, and authorizes its submission to the Legislature and Governor.